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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shuichi WATANABE Conf.: 8589  
Appl. No.: 09/451,097 Group: 2613  
Filed: November 30, 1999 Examiner: R. Lee  
For: IMAGE RETRIEVING APPARATUS PERFORMING  
RETRIEVAL BASED ON CODING INFORMATION  
UTILIZED FOR FEATURED FRAME EXTRACTION OR  
FEATURE VALUES OF FRAMES

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 25, 2003

Sir:

Further to the May 27, 2003 Amendment-After-Final and the request for Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) filed herewith, the following preliminary amendment and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 15 with the following amended claim: Please note that claim 15 is presented below in its amended form. Claim 15 is further presented as an Attachment to the Amendment whereby the amendment to claim 15 is outlined using the conventional method of bracketing and underlining.

15. (Four Times Amended) An image retrieving apparatus, comprising:  
an index information generating unit for receiving a frame feature value which is numerical information representing